

# Weekly Views

November 30, 2012

Through the efforts of Parole Agents George Armond and Paul Rains, the Gary Parole District has found yet another way to partner with the City of Gary. Starting in December, several unemployed parolees will be donating their time for community service at the Humane Society of Northwest Indiana. Everyone involved is extremely excited about this new partnership. Congratulations to both Agent Armond and Agent Rains for their efforts in coming up with this new program! "Everyone needs a second chance...from puppies to humans!"

Commissioner Bruce Lemmon presented Putnamville Correctional Facility Physical Plant staff with Commissioner Coins in recognition of their contribution to the community. Recipients Charles Sage,

Charles Knuf, Brian Archer and Mike Riley volunteered their time to construct and install gates and rail fencing along the Vandalia Trail Corridor. The four mile trail is Putnam County's portion of the National Road Heritage Trail. (see photo below of Sage, Knuf, Archer, and Riley on the Vandalia Trail)

Chain O' Lakes Correctional Facility, in support of Central Noble Food Pantry, continued to hold fund raisers and collect non perishable food to help provide a Thanksgiving Holiday Meal to those in need. Boxes were placed throughout the facility for staff and offenders to donate.

The Jaycees, one of the offender organizations at the Indiana State Prison, donated \$1,000 to purchase 112 gifts. The gifts were wrapped and donated to the Michigan City Salvation Army.

Several of the Indiana Women's Prison Community Outreach offenders donated their time and talents to complete 200 sets of hats, scarves & mittens for the Toy Store at the Centenary Christian Church of Indianapolis for the families that visit the food pantry.



Staff from PEN Products' Re-entry Division spoke to three criminal justice classes in the past two weeks, one from Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis and two classes from Anderson University. Also included were tours of the Indianapolis Re-entry Educational Facility and Correctional Industrial Facility. Students were given an inside look into our state prison system and more specifically the role that correctional industries plays in reducing prison idleness and preparing offenders for meaningful careers after release.

The Correctional Industrial Facility received two new ICAN puppies. "Teller" and "Holly" were the 10th and 11th dogs to enter the program. The Indiana Canine Assistant Network Program (ICAN) began at the Correctional Industrial Facility on May 22, 2012. The program started out with 8 handlers, with the first group of dogs arriving on July 7, 2012. Currently, the program has expanded to 11 handlers and 11 dogs. The dogs are taught 50 commands over a 2 year period. Once the dogs learn all of the commands, they are ready to be turned over to a client as service animals. Some of the clients the service dogs assist are those who are autistic, have mobility/balance issues, and who are diabetic. (See photos below of Teller (left) and Holly (right))



Offenders in the Therapeutic Community (TC) at Westville Correctional Facility have once again dazzled residents at the Life Care Nursing Center in Michigan City with their decorative, festive Thanksgiving cards and decorations. The offenders in the TC adopted the 102 bed Life Care Center about two years ago and have since been supplying the center with holiday greetings and decorations to the center during the major holidays. The offender's jovial greeting cards, funny words of wit and ornaments help with holiday spirits at the Life Care Center the patients always look forward to the next holiday delivery.

The Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility (IREF) held a recognition ceremony for students who have completed educational and vocational programs offered by Oakland City University, ARAMARK, and the United States Department of Labor (USDOL). Students in the Building Maintenance, Business Technology, In2Work/Culinary Arts, General Education, and USDOL programs were presented with certificates of completion. Following the ceremony, the offenders visited with guests during a reception, which included snacks prepared by current Culinary Arts students. IREF Superintendent Steven H. Keever, along with other IREF staff, Oakland City University President Dr. Marley, class instructors, and other guests attended the ceremony.

Superintendent Stanley Knight and staff at the Putnamville Correctional Facility extend their best wishes to Carpenter Foreman William Fisher who is retiring after 21 years of service and Secretary Paula Alberts who is leaving the Department after 9 years of service.